

works which set down and analyze the causes of failure. The book therefore is to be highly recommended to everyone interested in psychiatric treatment.

The different chapters represent papers presented by the authors at the meeting of the American Psychopathological Association. There is considerable difference of approach so that some chapters contain a general discussion of principles whereas other chapters take up more individual cases and show why failures occurred in particular cases.

The chapters roam all the way from Chapter 2 which is "Failures with Psychoanalytic Therapy"; Chapter 6, "Failures in the Psychotherapy of Children"; Chapter 7, "Failures in Psychosomatic Case Treatments"; Chapter 8, "Group Psychotherapy"; Chapter 10, "Failures with Insulin Shock Therapy"; Chapter 11, "Failures with Electric Shock Therapy"; and passing on to such subjects as prefrontal lobotomy, neurosyphilis, epilepsy, and even social case work. The different chapters vary somewhat in their value, but all of them are well written and are good discussions of the subject.

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HANDBOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA, TOXICOLOGY, AND PHARMACOLOGY, For Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By Forrest Ramon Davison, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., M.B., Consultant and Toxicologist, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fourth Edition. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$8.50.

This handbook, originally published in 1940, has been revised, in part, to meet criticisms levelled against earlier editions. The title indicates the fact that the text is "dated," and in Part I, perhaps, the subject matter is of greater interest to the pharmacist than to the practicing physician. Part II is, in essence, a facsimile after the Cushny style, with respect to classification of subject matter. Unfortunately, critical judgment of old, as well as new drugs, of help to the physician, is lacking. For this reason, the handbook is really a compendium of practically all agents which at one time or another have been considered useful. Certainly, many of the drugs given space in the text are superseded today by others of proven value. The size and price of the book are not justified on the basis of the subject matter selected and the manner of its presentation.

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ESSENTIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH. By William P. Shepard, B.S., M.D., M.A., with the collaboration of Charles Edward Smith, M.D., D.P.H.; Rodney Rau Beard, M.D., M.P.H.; Leon Benedict Reynolds, A.B., Sc.D., with a foreword by Ray Lyman Wilbur, M.D., LL.D., Sc.D., Chancellor, Stanford University; Ex-Secretary of the Interior; formerly President of Stanford University, J. P. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1948. \$5.00.

This book of 600 pages is conveniently arranged in compact handbook form and liberally indexed and documented.

Intended primarily for the general practitioner of medicine, it should nevertheless serve equally for the medical student and also should find a place as a useful reference work for the professional in public health and preventive medicine. Because it covers extensive subject matter condensation has been necessary and with it comes the possible risk of misinterpretation of detail particularly where such detail deals with difficult or controversial subject matter. However, each chapter is thoroughly documented with bibliographical references that will aid the student of any particular subject discussed in his reading further.

The book starts with a splendid background orientation in the general objectives and philosophies of traditional public health function and the administrative structure usually encountered in public health activities. Unusual in a book of this kind is the authors' treatment of administrative responsibility in which they present a well considered picture of the role, both immediate and future, of the various official

and voluntary agencies that are active in the health field. The concise manner in which this has been done in the presentation of each major area of public health activity makes this information particularly accessible at the points in the book where it is most useful.

Particularly useful to busy practitioners are a number of innovations such as the quick reference tables concerning many elusive facts such as communicable diseases regulations in Chapter IV, the submission of laboratory specimens and their interpretation in Chapter V, and the long list of diseases responsive to immunization of one kind or another in Chapter VI.

The authors' frequent references to the evaluation of specific public health activities based on the interpretation of the survey schedules of the American Public Health Association are interesting but subject to some misinterpretation. This use of such health practice indices can be considered valid only in relation to the forward motion of the particular service in question. For example, the high percentage of obstetric cases that must be hospitalized to be classified as "good" in this analytical array of services from good, fair, to poor, represents a considerable level of perfection. On the other hand, the assignment of 12 per cent as the community level considered "good" for the vaccination against smallpox of infants under one year, though it may compare favorably with the rate for the nation as a whole, can, by no stretch of the imagination, be considered really good in terms of preventive medical practice. Care, therefore, should be used in applying these somewhat arbitrary grade classifications to public health practice in a given community.

It is particularly pleasant to find the concluding chapter dealing with statistics as applied in the determination and measurement of morbidity and mortality data. This section is planned for the orientation of the general practitioner to biostatistical methods in order to enable him better to evaluate these procedures.

In short, this book will be a most useful addition to the library of the practicing physician and the student of preventive medicine and public health.

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A METHOD OF ANATOMY, DESCRIPTIVE AND DEDUCTIVE. By J. C. Boileau Grant, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Professor of Anatomy, University of Toronto, Fourth Edition, The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1948. \$7.00.

This is an excellent work on anatomy written primarily for the physician or surgeon seeking useful information in the field which can be immediately applied to clinical or surgical problems. It presents anatomy not as a mere conglomeration of impractical facts which must be memorized and retained, but as a functional integration of anatomical facts correlated admirably with embryology, function, and clinical interrelationships. The human body is considered by regions, and the key to the region is the predominant clinical feature or surgical feature of the area. The development of the text centers around the clinical or surgical implications, and the utility of the anatomy is immediately grasped from this method of exposition. The text is well illustrated with line drawings and diagrams which clearly depict the interrelationships of the various structures in the area.

This is a particularly readable and handy reference book for the surgeon. It is not so cumbersome or detailed as Calender's text and yet presents anatomy in a much more practical manner. It surpasses McGregor's book in the same field by its ease of presentation and superior drawings. This book makes anatomy rational, direct, and applicable to the problems of medicine and surgery. The reviewer recommends it wholeheartedly.